

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0926**

August 28, 2019

The Honorable Pete T. Gaynor  
Acting Administrator  
**Federal Emergency Management Agency**  
500 C Street S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20472

Dear Acting Administrator Gaynor:

I write to express deep concern over the Department of Homeland Security's ("DHS") recent announcement to transfer and reprogram operating funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency ("FEMA"). The Administration's reckless decision to transfer millions of dollars from your agency in favor of detaining additional families under the authority of Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE") violates the basic tenets of separation of powers.

In the midst of hurricane season, and with Hurricane Dorian expected to impact both Puerto Rico and Florida in the coming days, it is imperative that your agency remains fully funded and properly equipped to respond to any natural disaster. To that end, the recent DHS announcement to reprogram funds from your agency raises serious questions about FEMA's hurricane preparedness and ability to respond to natural disasters.

To ensure that your agency is equipped to respond to potential hurricanes and other natural disasters, please respond to the following inquiries:

1. Prior to the August 27, 2019 DHS announcement to reprogram funds, what is the total amount of funding that had already been reprogrammed from FEMA to other DHS programs in FY19 and FY20? Please provide a breakdown of the programs within DHS to which these funds were allocated.
2. Pursuant to the August 27, 2019 DHS announcement, what is the total amount of money that DHS is planning to reprogram from FEMA's funding to ICE and other agencies?
3. Will any additional funds be transferred and/or reprogrammed from FEMA in the coming year?
4. What did FEMA intend to do with the funding that is being transferred away from the agency?
5. How will the decrease in funding impact FEMA's disaster preparedness and, specifically, the ability to respond to hurricanes impacting Florida in the coming months?
6. How will the funds transferred from FEMA affect the agency's ability to distribute funds to Monroe and Miami-Dade Counties obligated in FY19 pursuant to Section 428 of the *Robert T. Stafford Act*?
7. What impact will this decrease in funding have on FEMA's personnel levels?

8. What alternative steps is FEMA taking to compensate for the decreased funding in order to respond to emergencies during FY19 and FY20?

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Debbie', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

**Debbie Mucarsel-Powell**  
Member of Congress